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SUBJECT: US-JAPAN CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL
INTERCHANGE

REF: PAO-HIGGINS AND CU/ARA-MASON TELECON 10/23

FOR PAO

1. THE US-JAPAN CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL
INTERCHANGE (CULCON) IS A UNIQUE INSTITUTION OF PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE LEADERS WHICH, SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1961 BY
PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY AND PRIME MINISTER HAYATO IKEDA, HAS
BEEN AN INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE "BOARD OF DIRECTORS," EN-
COURAGING AND COORDINATING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC GROUPS AND
AGENCIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES AND BROADEN THE BASE OF
EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO.

2. CULCON MEETS EVERY 2 YEARS, ALTERNATING BETWEEN JAPAN
AND THE UNITED STATES. THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES SIGNED
IN TOKYO ON NOVEMBER 8, 1968 AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO
ESTABLISH A PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE MADE UP OF THE MEMBERS
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OF THE AMERICAN PANEL AND THE MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE PANEL.

IN THE YEARS BETWEEN THE FULL CULCONS, THE JOINT COMMITTEE,
;
WHOSE MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND
THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF JAPAN, MEETS TO CONSULT ON PROGRESS
SINCE THE LAST PLENARY SESSION AND TO PLAN NEW PROJECTS
FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHARE
THE COSTS OF THESE MEETINGS, MANY OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH
TAKE PLACE UNDER CULCON'S GENERAL AEGIS ARE FUNDED
PRIVATELY. THE PRINCIPAL ONGOING PROJECTS OF CULCON ARE
PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT BY SUBCOMMITTEES OF EXPERTS WHO
ALSO ATTEND THE BIENNIAL PLENARY MEETINGS AND SOMETIMES
THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

3. THE AMERICAN PANEL OF CULCON IS PRESENTLY COMPOSED OF
TWELVE MEMBERS REPRESENTING A VARIETY OF CONSTITUENCIES
SUCH AS GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS,
BUSINESS, MASS MEDIA, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND JAPANESE
STUDIES. IT IS CUSTOMARY TO INCLUDE A MEMBER OF CONGRESS
AND OF THE JAPANESE DIET IN THE NATIONAL DELEGATIONS
ASSEMBLED FOR THE MAJOR CULCON MEETINGS. CONGRESSMAN
CEDERBERG HAS SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY AT PAST CULCON
MEETINGS. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CULCON PANEL ARE MADE BY
THE US SECRETARY OF STATE. THE GOVERNMENT MEMBER MOST
DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH CULCON IS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS. GOVERNMENT
STAFF SUPPORT IS SUPPLIED BY THE BUREAU OF CULTURAL AND
EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION, AND ESPECIALLY TO SERVE
THE PRIVATE DIMENSIONS OF CULCON'S ACTIVITIES, A SECRETARIAT
IS MAINTAINED BY THE JAPAN SOCIETY, INC. OF NEW YORK. THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN PANEL IS DESIGNATED FROM AMONG THE
NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEMBERS.

4. OVER THE YEARS, CULCON HAS HELPED BRING TOGETHER GOVERN-
MENT AND PRIVATE LEADERS INTERESTED IN US-JAPAN EXCHANGES
TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AREAS, GIVE FOCUS TO PLANS TO OVER-
COME THESE PROBLEMS, AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO EFFORTS TO
CARRY THEM OUT. THE KEY TO CULCON'S INCREASING EFFECTIVE-
NESS HAS BEEN ITS ABILITY TO ACHIEVE COOPERATION BETWEEN
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. IN THIS
RESPECT, CULCON IS DIFFERENT FROM MANY OTHER PURELY
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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED BILATERAL AGENCIES. CULCON'S
SPECIAL IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN ITS CAPACITY TO ENLIST THE GOOD
WILL AND ENERGY OF MANY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC GROUPS ON BOTH
SIDES OF THE PACIFIC WHO WORK WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEES
ESTABLISHED BY CULCON TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC GOALS. AT THE
PRESENT TIME CULCON IS WORKING THROUGH THE FOLLOWING SUB-
COMMITTEES: AMERICAN STUDIES, JAPANESE STUDIES, EDUCATION,
NEWS MEDIA, BROADCAST MEDIA, MUSEUM INTERCHANGE, AND

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE. THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING
IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SPRING OF 1976 IN WASHINGTON. INGERSOLL

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